

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

8 July 1949

SUBJECT: Medical Care and Hospitalization Expenses for Dependents

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1. [REDACTED] raised the problem of payment of medical and hospital expenses of dependents of employees who may have contracted a disease peculiar or endemic to the area in which the employee was assigned. The various statutes involved, for civilian employees, make no provision for payment of such expenses for the dependents of employees.

2. This matter was discussed with Mr. Houston Lay of the Legal Office of the Department of State. He advised that the problem had given considerable trouble within the Department. Consequently, in one of the drafts of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, there appeared in Section 941 and 942 the word "dependents" in addition to employees in connection with expenses of treatment and transportation to hospitals. However, Congress in considering the Act eliminated any reference to dependents. Although the Department is still plagued with this problem, they have not seen fit to raise the issue with Congress in subsequent years.

3. Mr. Lay pointed out that while an individual is abroad, certain assistance may be granted through unofficial cooperation with other agencies, such as the Army, Navy or Public Health Service. However, when there was a question of direct reimbursement of expenses either to the dependent or to another agency on behalf of a dependent of the Department's employee, there was nothing that could be done under existing law.

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4. The above information was passed on to [REDACTED] who indicated that he would not press this particular case for ruling by the Director.

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C R: 341 Medical Care